REMARKS

Claims 1-15, 25, 26, and 28 are presented for examination. Claims 16-24 and 27 were previously withdrawn from consideration. Claim 28 is new. No claims are amended.

Claims 1-15 are allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for allowance of these claims.

Claims 25 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Takamizawa et al. (U.S. 2001/0021954 A1).

Specifically in reference to claim 25, the Office Action explains that Takamizawa et al. shows an auto status back, ASB (i.e. automatic reporting controller 40), and then asserts that Takamizawa et al. further shows "the change data between an earlier status and current status on page 4 @ [0067] and the change data transmission in figures 3-4". Applicants respectfully disagree. The Office Action appears to be confusing Takamizawa et al.'s "initialization settings information" with status data generated by the auto status back, ASB. Takamizawa et al. explain that storage 38 is a non-volatile memory that holds initialization settings information, which is setup information used during the booting-up or resetting of the printer to place the printer in a known initial operating state, page 4 @ [0056] to [0057]. The printer's boot-up, or set-up, sequence for initializing the printer according to the initialization settings information stored in storage 38 is shown in Fig. 3, page 4 @ [0068] to page 5 @ [0071].

By contrast, information generated by the automatic status back (ASB), or automatic reporting controller, 40 indicates the current status of various mechanical and algorithmic conditions of the printer. Furthermore, Takamizawa et al. teach that this status information is sent to the host device 90 via transmitter 41 and interface 30, page 4 @ [0058], and appear silent on any requirement for storing the generated status information. As it is known in the art, the type of start-up initialization information stored in storage 38 is typically fixed by the manufacturer, although in the present case, Takamizawa et al.

teaches that host device 90 may alter predefined types of initialization information in storage 38 by use of special commands, page 4 @ [0067]. Nonetheless, it is clear that the auto status back, ASB, does not write to the initialization setting information storage 38. It is further clear that Takamizawa et al.'s Fig. 3 does not show the comparing of current status data generated by the ASB and not yet sent to the host device 90 with previous status data also generated by the ASB and already sent to the host device 90. Thus, the limitations of claim 25 are not taught or suggested by the cited prior art.

With respect to claim 26, the Office Action asserts that Takamizawa et al. shows the "first memory 32 on page 4 @ [0053], the second memory 38 on page 4 @[0056], the calculation unit in fig. 4 @ S113-S114 and the transmission device in his claim 1 @ (c)". Applicants respectfully disagree. Firstly, memory 32 is a "receive buffer", which as is explained in page 4 @ [0053], holds data transmissions _from_ host device 90 _to_ the printer. As it is known in the art, a _receive_ buffer does not hold data previously _transmitted_ _from_ the printer _to_ the host device, as is suggested by the Office Action. Additionally, Takamizawa et al.'s Fig. 2 shows that only their receiver 31 and their data interpreter 33 are coupled to receive buffer 32. It is thus evident that automatic reporting controller 40, which generates the status data, does not have access to store any information into receive buffer 32.

Regarding Takamizawa et al.'s storage 38, it is clear from the discussion above with respect to claim 25 that Takamizawa et al.'s storage 38 cannot be equated to the second memory recited in claim 26 at least because it is not written to by the automatic status back, ASB, and because storage 38 does not hold status data generated by the ASB. As explained above, storage 38 hold initialization settings data used in the booting-up or setting-up of the printer, and does not hold any status data generated by any ASB.

Also in regards to S113 to S114 of Takamizawa et al.'s Fig. 4, Applicants respectfully point out that this flow chart shows the sequence by which of Takamizawa et al.'s host device 90 may be updated the initialization data in storage 38. This sequence does not teach or suggest any comparison of current

(generated by the ASB and not yet transmitted) status data with previous (generated by the ASB and already transmitted) status data. Thus, the limitations of claim 26 are not taught or suggested by the teachings of Takamizawa et al.

However, even if the teachings of Takamizawa et al. could suggest the invention of claims 25 and 26, Applicants respectfully point out that the Takamizawa et al. reference is not proper prior art in view of our claimed foreign priority date (MPEP 2136.03, I). That is, the foreign priority date (December 20, 2000) of the present application predates the U.S. filing date (February 27, 2001) of the Takamizawa et al reference. If required, Applicants can perfect the claimed foreign priority filing date by filing a certified English language translation of priority document, JP 2000-387319.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of the present application.

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Date: January 23, 2004